

**Councilmember Jane Hague**

Summer 2004

# County Report

METROPOLITAN  
KING COUNTY  
COUNCIL  
**DISTRICT 11**

Dear Neighbors,

The issue of homelessness has brought out many opinions and concerns from all residents within King County. Eastsiders have been closely watching this issue due to the siting of Tent City4 in Bothell (originally at property adjacent to the Brickyard Park-n-Ride and currently at St. Brendan Catholic Church property). Throughout the County's encampment siting process I have heard from many District 11 residents.

The focus of this newsletter is to provide you with a brief history and overview of the issues surrounding homeless encampments. Major decisions will have to be made early this Fall regarding the appropriate role of the County and its properties regarding homeless encampments.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you on this issue and many others. Please feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns at (206) 296-1011 or [jane.hague@metrokc.gov](mailto:jane.hague@metrokc.gov).

With warm regards,



**King County**

516 THIRD AVE.  
SEATTLE, WA  
98104  
206-296-1011

Read more inside:

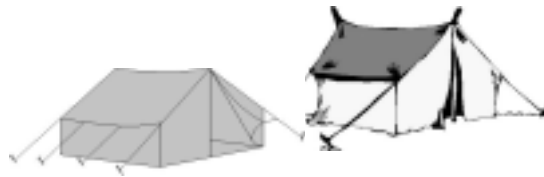
- Homelessness issues affecting King County government
- Legislation before the Metropolitan King County Council
- Websites and Links on Tent City Issues

Please visit my website @  
[www.metrokc.gov/hague](http://www.metrokc.gov/hague)

The concept of tent cities in King County began in 1990. In March 2000, Tent City3 was started by SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resource Effort) and WHEEL (Women's Housing, Equality and Enhancement League) and it has been operating continuously within the city of Seattle as well as Shoreline, Tukwila and Burien. Seattle City Council grappled with the issue of permitting homeless encampments back in the early 1990's and in 2002. The city originally considered the Tent City3 encampment to be illegal and cited its host for not applying for a permit to have the encampment on its land, threatened to fine the host, and eventually took the host to King County Superior Court.

During the 2004 Budget process, SHARE/WHEEL leaders first approached King County Councilmembers by requesting support for a tent city to be located on County land. An order called a “proviso” was placed in the 2004 Budget requiring the Executive to report to the Council on three County-owned or –controlled properties that would be potential sites for tent city encampments. The County Executive was directed to coordinate the locations with nearby faith-based organizations and to provide neighborhood outreach on the encampments. The Council placed this order in the budget so that a study could be transmitted,

This proviso was then vetoed by the County Executive in December of 2003. In late March of 2004, SHARE/WHEEL stated that it would move Tent City4 into an unnamed County park if the Executive did not provide an alternative site. Soon after this demand was made, the Executive announced that he would provide property adjacent to the Brickyard



A third key lawsuit regarding tent cities in the King County area was recently filed by the City of Bothell against St. Brendan Parish Church citing that “camping” on private property requires a city permit, public notification and public input. At a King County Superior Court hearing, Bothell hoped to have Tent

Tent City4 is scheduled to be located on St. Brendan property until August 15 when the encampment then moves to a new location. Woodinville Alliance Church was the next potential host site, but on July 13 the Church announced its decision to not be the next host for Tent City4. The King County Executive is in the process of trying to find a new site for the mid-August tent city move.

## LEGISLATION BEFORE THE METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

The King County Council approved legislation on June 1 that allowed formation of a citizens' advisory commission on homeless encampments. The appointees to this 22-member commission were approved on June 14 and are charged with:

- Performing an evaluation of homelessness in King County;
- Providing policy and procedural guidelines for determining the location of any potential future encampments; and
- Recommending options for locating such encampments on public or private land in King County.

The commission consists of 18 voting members -

including each Councilmember's nomination of one appointee to represent the citizens of their council district - and four advisory members who represent human service agencies that work on homeless and housing issues, on law enforcement and on public health issues. The commission is to report back to the Council with its recommendations by August 15.

It is important to note that the ordinance authorizing this commission forbids the County from identifying or from locating homeless encampments on County-owned property prior to September 15, 2004. In mid-September, the Executive is expected to transmit legislation addressing long-term solutions to homelessness.

## KEY WEBSITES ON TENT CITY ISSUES

To learn more about the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Homeless Encampments, its purpose, and to find a variety of informative links on homelessness, please see: <http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/CACHE>

For meeting information and agendas of the Metropolitan King County Council, please see:  
[www.metrokc.gov/council](http://www.metrokc.gov/council)

For other informative sites not listed at the e-addresses above, visit:

Real Change, an organization focused on creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty. Real Change's web site provides information and links

regarding issues challenging those who are low-income and homeless: <http://www.realchangenews.org>

Saint Brendan Catholic Church has a site that discusses the church's experience of hosting Tent City4 and a schedule of its weekly meetings regarding the encampment please see: <http://www.saintbrendan.org/Church/PopUp.html>

Care4Schools is a site hosted by a grassroots Bothell community organization focused on protecting their community and children, please see: <http://www.care4schools.org/blog>

City of Bothell's web page regarding Tent City4 issues:  
[http://www.ci.bothell.wa.us/dept/CM/PIO/NewsEvents/  
FYIS/TentCity.html](http://www.ci.bothell.wa.us/dept/CM/PIO/NewsEvents/FYIS/TentCity.html)

## POLICY ISSUES TO BE DEBATED - Let me know your thoughts

Important decisions will be made early this Fall regarding the County's role in solving the problem of homelessness in King County, including whether or not homeless encampments should be allowed on public (County) property.

This issue tends to elicit strong opinions from citizens because it affects everyone. I would like to hear from you regarding the following key policy questions on homelessness:

- What is the County's role in providing solutions to homelessness?

- Is it appropriate for County property to be used for homeless encampments?
- If yes, should the encampments be temporary or allowed to be permanent?
- What locations are most appropriate or inappropriate for homeless encampments?
- What factors must be taken into consideration when siting homeless encampments?

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**COUNCILMEMBER JANE HAGUE**

METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
516 THIRD AVE.  
SEATTLE, WA 98104

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***Hague Nominates Steve Pyeatt as the District 11 representative on the King County Citizens' Advisory Commission on Homeless Encampments.***

Councilmember Hague nominated Steve Pyeatt to represent District 11 on the King County Citizens' Advisory Commission on Homeless Encampments and he was appointed to the commission on June 1, 2004. Pyeatt has attended community meetings on the tent city encampment in Bothell and was a founding member of what is now called the King Communities for Fair Process.

He is very active in other community organizations including his role as chair of fund raising events for the American Cancer Society. He also has been officiating football for nearly 15 years - a hobby that combines his passion for the game with his desire to work with youth. Pyeatt currently runs a computer web hosting and site development company and he lives in Kirkland.

Please drop this in the mail to me, or, e-mail me your responses at [jane.hague@metrokc.gov](mailto:jane.hague@metrokc.gov)

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**Councilmember Jane Hague**

METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
516 THIRD AVE., ROOM 1200  
SEATTLE, WA 98104